

TANEY COUNTY REPUBLICAN

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Character Building.

A young man recently arrested for forgery gives as excuse that "things did not go good for him," and seems to eling to the idea that he is a victim of circumstances rather than of his own acts. Briefly, his history as he tells it is that his family in the east is fairly well to do. He received as good an education as he was willing to take or study for. He passes over his failure at home, which his history here indicates, and says that while here on business for his father he met a girl and in a week married her under an assumed name. Apparently he forgot all about that business of his father in his new identity. He got a job and lost it, got another job and lost it, then forged three checks and went to another city, where he got still another job and lost it. All this is "tough luck" from his point of view. He is like other less educated, and for that reason perhaps less culpable, lawbreakers, who declare they "never had a chance" in a country where thousands of our most successful and wealthy business men had no better chance than they.

This young man had at least three jobs after he was married, with the added urge of family responsibility to cause him to make good, including before the end a baby, and yet he could not keep them. He could not satisfy at least three different employers that he was worth retaining on the pay roll, in spite of having a good enough education to keep him there if he had possessed the moral fiber without which education is valueless except as an aid to discovering more ways of getting in to trouble. He had a better educational equipment for success than thousands upon thousands of young men who are making good in every avenue of human effort, some of them on their way clear to the top. He lacked the most important qualification of all for business success—moral fiber. His failure was of his own causing directly. Indirectly there were other causes and responsibilities.

Lack of old-fashioned home life and old-fashioned home discipline is responsible for much of the noticeable absence of a sense of responsibility in the present young generation. Our recent military experience has shown, or should make us realize, the value of discipline in developing the sense of responsibility, cultivating reliability and stiffening the moral fiber in young men. But the average age of 20 years is late for the beginning of such development. There is no age too early for its beginning. When it begins early its success is assured. When it begins late it is not assured and at best cannot reach the perfection of the earlier beginning. It is evident that the best place for discipline and training to develop character is the home, and, just as the home loses its disciplinary character and home atmosphere and becomes easy-going and unhomelike, its work of character building is impaired, and the result is worse for the children who grow up in it. Our present-day civilization has in it much less of this genuine home life than existed half a century ago, and we are paying for it with a larger proportion of young men with flabby characters.

This is a great fact which must be faced. It is an existing condition which cannot be blinked. Nor can it be changed by merely pointing out its existence. It is a great national tendency which only some other tendency can counteract. That counteracting tendency must be an increase in the number of homes of genuine christian atmosphere and parental discipline, instead of the decrease that has for some time been going on. While this is being done, and at all times, because perfection in that respect cannot be expected, there should be a strengthening of the character-building influence and agencies which effect the lives of boys and young men outside their homes. Contributions of personal service and of money to the operation and support of such agencies constitute the finest sort of patriotism and philanthropy. A much larger devotion of public attention and public funds to

that sort of work would be a wise act for the preservation of our American institutions by assuring the right kind of citizens into whose hands to entrust them. We need in our work of character building for the youth now with us and those to follow them a strengthening of home influence and discipline, and as well we need an increase in the number and strength and intensity of work of those character-building influences outside the home which supplement home training and become the only substitute for it when it is lacking. The strength of a nation lies in character more than education. We have been paying too great a proportional attention to education. We must increase largely the more important factor of character building.—Globe-Democrat.

A Receding Tide

The great tide of radicalism is receding. Anarchy is reduced to its last extremity in Russia, the land of its birth. Deprived of external sustenance by its own acts, it has of late been feeding upon its own body and growing weaker every day. It cannot live because it is violently in opposition to the fundamental laws of nature and to the essential laws of civilization. In Germany it has had its brief hour and, to all appearances, has vanished from the scene. In England anarchy at no time gained a foothold but radicalism of a less extreme form found a large following. It too is rapidly receding and the country is settling down to a condition of permanent stability that, however different it may be from the old state, will be founded upon law and order. And now France has proven by its elections that radicalism in that country has been but the sanguine foam upon the waves of a deep sea. The forces of radicalism, wherever they exist, are limited to a minority. This is true, and has all the time been true, even in Russia. It is not their magnitude but their violence and the destructive tendencies of their applied theories—destructive to all that civilization cherishes—that make them a serious menace to mankind. And France, once the center of the greatest outbreak of red radicalism in history up to the revolution in Russia, has deliberately and most emphatically rejected the movement.

Returns from twenty-nine districts reported yesterday showed radicals defeated, in the elections for the Chamber of Deputies, in every one of them, Republicans winning ten seats, Progressives nine and Liberals ten. Seventeen of these seats have been held by Radicals and ten by Socialists, indicating not only that radicalism has made no progress from the events of the war, but that that which existed has been swept out. The result is more than a vindication of the policies of the Clemenceau Government; it is a reaction toward the same conservatism that has usually characterized the great mass of the French people. Radicalism may have its day and its following in the industrial centers, but the agricultural population and the millions who are outside the organized workers will have none of it. The peasantry of France, the little shopkeepers of the innumerable villages, their like in the cities, and the business men of larger interests, are essentially conservative, and the impressive events of the past few years have made them more so rather than less. Nor is it true that even among the organized workers of France radicalism has a majority. It has never had, although it has been exceedingly noisy and active, making the sound and appearance of a magnitude which never existed.

The tide, we repeat, of radicalism is receding. And it is no less true that it is receding in America. It has needed but the realization of its existence and its dangers to arouse the people of this country to repudiate it and to begin to suppress it. It is not and can never be in harmony with American principles, nor with the deep feeling, the inherent righteousness, of the American people. It is still a menace, a serious one. We cannot

Taney County Teachers' Association Forsyth, December 11 to 13, 1919.

PROGRAM

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

- 1:30 Opening Exercises:
Song By the Convention, led by A. L. Wyke.
Forsyth Orchestra—Miss Helen Brown, piano; Miss Jessie Vanzandt, violin; Mrs. A. L. Wyke, clarinet; Mr. A. L. Wyke, trombone C. E. Bolles, bass.
- 2:00 The Community Church and its Relation to Public Schools, H. R. Awbrey
- 2:30 Question Box—General Discussion.
- 3:00 The Boy Scout, William Stafford
- 3:30 Humorous Address, Comer Speeking
- 4:00 What is a Model School? F. E. Bicknell

THURSDAY EVENING

- 7:30 Entertainment, Southern Musical Company

FRIDAY FORENOON

- 9:00 Opening Exercises.
- 9:15 Importance of Athletics, W. T. Crawford
- 9:30 Demonstration—Primary Exercise, directed by Katharine Bennett
- 10:30 Series of Instructions, W. Y. Foster
- 11:00 Recess.
- 11:10 Instructions, W. Y. Foster

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

- 1:30 Instructions, W. Y. Foster
- 2:30 Recess.
- 3:00 Teachers' Wages and Needed Legislation, Supt. T. R. Luckett

FRIDAY EVENING

- 7:30 Address, Rev. E. F. Leake

SATURDAY FORENOON

- 9:00 Opening Exercises.
- 9:10 Compulsory Attendance, R. C. Ford, County Attendance Officer
- 10:00 Basket Ball, between Forsyth High School and
- 11:00 Boys' Corn Growing Club Contest.
- Prize of \$25.00 given for best ten ears.
- " 10.00 " " second best ten ears.
- " 5.00 " " third best ten ears.
- " 5.00 " " greatest number of bushels raised on bottom land.
- " 5.00 " " greatest number of bushels raised on upland.

NOTE:—The convention of the County Teachers' Association is a kind of mid-term conference which serves to stimulate school interest for the remainder of the school term. Therefore, Section 10934 of the School Laws of 1917 makes it the duty of each teacher to attend this convention. Neither the County Superintendent nor the school board has the authority to excuse any teacher from attendance upon this meeting. Teachers are allowed regular school time for the two days spent at the convention.

The program is full of variety and provides information, inspiration and high class entertainment. And here's hoping that every teacher may be present at the opening, 1:30 p. m.

I would appreciate the courtesy on the part of any teacher who cannot come if you drop me a line stating the reason why you were unable to attend the convention.

Very sincerely,

JOHN W. BENNETT,
County Superintendent.

afford to shut our eyes to the dangers that yet exist. Its alien leaders must be deported; its American leaders—for unhappily there are some of these—must be taught the essential limitations of freedom in a land of law and order. But we need not fear that America will be overwhelmed. There never was any danger of that. And the danger of any great attack upon our liberties and our form of government is growing less. The sober sense, the sound conservatism, of home-loving, peace-loving America is solidly and firmly against any revolutionary movement and against any preachers of revolution.—Globe-Democrat.

The 300-Egg Hen.

That once thought unattainable goal of the 300-egg hen has been reached. If but a few years ago a poultryman had been asked if he ever expected to see a hen that laid 300 eggs in one year, he would have answered no. Yet, right here in Missouri, the greatest poultry state in the Union, a hen during the year from November 1, 1918 to November 1, 1919 has laid a total of 304 eggs, one for every day of the year except Sundays and holidays. The average hen lays from 100 to 150 a year, extra good ones now 200 eggs. Not so long ago the 200-egg hen was something of a marvel, and the elevation by breeding of the average hen to the 200-egg mark was set as the ultimate goal of the poultryman. Now thousands of pure-bred hens lay 200 eggs a year, mate attainment. Now thousands of which breeding and selection may attain in flocks given the proper care. Think what it would mean to increase

by 100 the number of eggs laid on the average by the hens of the United States. Think what Missouri hens would add to the wealth of the state by such proceeding. It is estimated that there are more than 100,000,000 less hens in the world than before the war. At the low average of 100 eggs each this means that this year the egg output of the world is 10,000,000,000 eggs less than it was five years ago. Perhaps we can see in that some reason for the prices we are paying. More hens and better hens, the kind that lay 200 egg a year on the average, is the need of the world, not less Missouri than other states and nations.

This wonderful 304-egg hen has not only broken the world's record, but she has helped upset a theory of breeds which has prevailed. We do not say that the theory is completely demolished. It may work after a fashion still, and those who hold it may continue to hold to it despite the record. That is the habit of theorists. This theory is that as mere egg layers the lighter breeds of fowls, like the Leghorns, Minorcas, Black Spanish, etc., are more profitable than the heavier breeds, because they lay more and eat less. We have produced in the United States special strains which are not so heavy as the Brahmas, Shanghais and other meat fowls, but are heavier than the so-called egg layers, and which also are good layers. Chief among these are the Plymouth Rocks, the Rhode Islands and the Wyandottes. It was one of these all-purpose breeds which broke the record, a Rhode Island White. This feat was performed at the Missouri Experiment Station at Mountain Grove,

which has just finished its eighth annual egg laying contest, to which hens from all over the country are sent. In this contest there were sixty pens of five hens each comprising fifteen different breeds. It is noticeable that among the highest ten pens were of the American general purpose breeds and only three of the special so-called egg layers. The result of this contest, which is perhaps more pronounced in favor of the all-purpose breed as distinguished from the single-purpose breed, whether that purpose be eggs or meat, seems to be proof that the great majority of American farmers are on the right track when they choose one of the American breeds for their flock and then build up the flock by careful selection. No mongrel hen ever laid 300, or even 200 eggs a year. We ought to have no room for mongrels in either the chicken yard or the pasture in Missouri, if we expect to make poultry or live stock pay. The poultry Experiment Station has given the farmers of Missouri knowledge that will be worth many millions of dollars to them if they govern themselves by it.—Globe Democrat.

Revival Planned For Entire South

Widest Evangelistic Effort Ever Made
Will Be Launched Soon.

Nashville, Tenn.—Plans for an evangelistic movement which will cover the entire South and operate in 20,000 churches at the same time are being formulated by the Centenary Commission and the evangelist committee of the M. E. Church, South.

Dr. A. C. Zumbrennen is in charge of the survey, and he has made preliminary investigations in a large number of typical sections as samples to guide pastors in surveying their own fields.

When these surveys are completed the evangelistic movement will be launched in an effort to interest all non-church members whose names have been secured.

It has been estimated that half a million workers will be enlisted to personally interview the persons who have no church membership.

Another Use for Bunny.

That Belgian hares have other resourceful veins than meat producing remained to be established by an amateur English woman fancier. The climax of her undertaking was when she appeared at a large pet stock show in England with a jaunty, becoming hat, a coat, and a set of furs made from rabbit skins, which she admitted publicly were nothing more than some of her pet rabbits.

In England, 83,000 rabbit skins a year are being made over into ermine, Arctic fox and black lynx furs to fool milady. Before the war such rabbits were produced by scores of millions in Europe, and vast quantities of the skins imported to the United States to masquerade as real fur. American breeders are raising the same kind of rabbits that produce the best money for the fur shops, and it is certain that as valuable rabbit fur can be produced in America as elsewhere. It is a business that can be conducted every month in the year, and a hobby that will pay its way is one to be valued.—Hunter-Trapper, Trapper.

Get Necessary Knowledge.

Most of life's great mistakes are due to insufficient knowledge. In the early days of the great war battles raged on the eastern front. There are the great lakes and marshes. Victory as a rule came to the man who knew the ground best. One of the great generals made it his program to lure his opponents into the lake region and then deliver swift blows in the time of his foes' bewilderment. The difference between grades of mental power is not so great, but it's the training and the knowledge and application that makes the great differences between men. When a man's ready to do his own rough work he isn't likely to have things "put across on him." The tenderfoot has always been a joke among his fellows. He is common bait. Let him show a little aggressiveness and the regulars will respect him more. Blunders he will make, but he will redeem them and himself by his attempts.

WEDDED IN SMOCK

Reason for Scanty Garb of Some
Old-Time Brides.

In England It Was Held That Act Relieved Husbands of Debts Contracted by His Bride Before Their Marriage.

"A Bangor lawyer attending court in the ancient town of Wiscasset, Lincoln county, recently went rummaging in the Colonial court records of the place, and in the course of his reading came across the official registration of a 'smock marriage,' writes L. T. Smyth from Bangor, Me., to the Boston Transcript. "Not knowing what a smock marriage was, the lawyer looked further, and got considerable light upon a custom that prevailed in England a century or more ago and also to some extent in the American colonies.

"Smock marriages were weddings where the bride appeared dressed in a white sheet or chemise. The reason for such a garb was the belief that if a man married a woman who was in debt he could be held liable for her indebtedness if he received with her any of her property; and also, that if a woman married a man who was in debt, his creditors could not take her property to satisfy their claims if he had received nothing from her at marriage. In England, says an antiquarian, there was at least one case where a bride was clothed in puris naturalibus while the ceremony was being performed in the great church at Birmingham. The minister at first refused to perform the ceremony, but, finding nothing in the rubric that would excuse him, he finally married the pair.

"To carry out the law fully as the people understood it, the ceremony should always have been performed as it was in the church at Birmingham. In the case noted; but, modestly forbidding, various expedients were used to accomplish the end without the unpleasant features. Sometimes the bride stood in a closet and put her hand through a hole in the door; sometimes she stood behind a cloth screen and put her hand out at one side; again, she wound about her a white sheet furnished by the bridegroom, and sometimes she stood in her chemise or smock. Eventually, in Essex county, at least, all immodesty was avoided by the groom furnishing all the clothes worn by the bride, retaining the title to the same in himself. This he did in the presence of witnesses, that he might be able to prove the fact in case he was sued for any debts she might have contracted. A marriage of this kind occurred at Bradford in 1773, and the following is true copy of the record of the same:

"Bradford, Dec. ye 24, 1773—This may certify whomsoever it may concern that James Bailey of Bradford, who was married to the widow Mary Bacon November 22 last past by me ye subscriber then declared that he took said person without anything of estate and that Lydia the wife of Liaser Burbank and Mary the wife of Thomas Sickney and Margaret the wife of Caleb Burbank all of Bradford were witnesses that the clothes she then had on were his providing and bestowed upon her.

"WILLIAM BLANCH,

"Minister of ye Gospel."

"It is noted by the same writer that in all cases of smock marriages that have come to his notice the brides have been widows.

"It is thought that during the reign of George III there were many smock marriages in Maine, then a part of the province of Massachusetts Bay, chiefly in the counties of Lincoln and York, or in the territory which is now so known. There is nothing to show that the practice outlived the Revolution. In Maine, up to 1852, a husband was liable for debts of his wife contracted before marriage, and no such subterfuge as the smock marriage could relieve him."

How Pipe Reveals Character.

A new method of telling a man's character is now advanced by William E. Critchlow, ninety, of Macon, Mo. He said:

"You can tell more about a man by the way he lights his pipe than you can by the shape of his head. There's the fellow who strikes a match on the south end of his trousers, holds his hands over the bowl until he gets it going, throws down the match any old place, and tilts his pipe up toward the North Star. That man may burn down his home and barn, but he'll never tick his wife or children, because his heart's right.

"Crooks and bad men don't often smoke pipes. They wouldn't be crooks if they did, because there's something about an old hickory pipe that inspires a man to play fair with his neighbors."

Cleaning Brass and Copper.

For cleaning and polishing brass and copper, nothing is better than oil and rotten stone, and most of the good polishes on the market are made from these materials, with alcohol, turpentine, or soap.